

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2267

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE

EO11652 GDS
TAGS NATO PFOR GW
SUBJECT THE GERMANS AND THE LONDON SUMMIT

1 THE LINCHPIN OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, AND INDEED OF US RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE, IS OUR COOPERATION WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THIS FACT HAS BEEN BROUGHT HOME TO ME TIME AND AGAIN DURING MY TOUR AT NATO, NOT AS AN ABSTRACT NOTION, BUT RATHER AS A REFLECTION OF THE BASIC POWER AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE AND OUR COUNTRY AND EUROPE. WE AND THE GERMANS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SCOTCHED THE IDEA, SO TROUBLESOME FOR THE REST OF EUROPE, OF A BONN-WASHINGTON AXIS. HOWEVER, THE FACT REMAINS THAT WASHINGTON CAN ACCOMPLISH FEW OF ITS CENTRAL PURPOSES IN EUROPE UNLESS THERE EXISTS A SHARED UNDERSTANDING AND A PSYCHOLOGICAL RAPPORT WITH BONN ON THE VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF THE WEST.

2. FOR THIS REASON, AND BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT FRICTIONS WHICH NOW SEEM TO AFFLICT WASHINGTON-BONN RELATIONS, I SUGGEST THAT THE PRESIDENT CONSIDER MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING THEIR ARRIVAL IN LONDON. IN MY VIEW, THE SUCCESS OF BOTH THE NATO AND ECONOMIC SUMMITS WILL
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PAGE 02 NATO 02267 191619Z

DEPEND CONSIDERABLY ON US-GERMAN ACCORD. IF THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY AT THE OUTSET TO REVIEW CURRENT DIFFERENCES -- THE BRAZILIAN CONTRACT, REFLATION, AWACS, THE TANK AND TANK GUN, AND OUR DIFFERENT EMPHASES ON HUMAN RIGHT -- THEY CAN ESTABLISH, EARLY ON, TTHAT FUNDAMENTAL IDENTITY OF INTERESTS, WHICH SHOULD PREVAIL REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES REMAINING ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. IF THEY DO NOT CLEAR THE AIR, I FEEL THAT WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, ON PAPER, OF THE LONDON SUMMIT MEETINGS, OUR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE KEY POWER IN EUROPE WILL NOT BE RESTORED. IN THIS

EVENT, THESE MEETINGS WILL HAVE FAILED TO PRODUCE RESULTS
IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO HAVE WARRANTED THE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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